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Letter dated 4 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish once again to draw your attention to Ethiopia's continued refusal to withdraw form Badme, Dembe Mengul and other sovereign Eritrean territories, including Mount Musa Ali, which it occupied as recently as May this year. This is in total disregard of the final and binding award of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and the provisions of the Algiers Agreements. Eritrea has been making numerous appeals to the Security Council to address the issue of the occupation of a United Nations Member State in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. This fundamental principle of international law is regrettably applied selectively. Ethiopia's occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories is shelved while non-existent occupation is given serious consideration in the agenda of the Security Council. This is a double standard with dangerous implications for regional peace and security.

As you may very well recall, the matter of Mount Musa Ali was initially brought to the attention of the Council when the issue of "Peace and security in Africa" was considered at the 5924th meeting of the Council, on 24 June 2008.

More importantly, Mr. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, in his letter of 7 July 2008 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/446) and another letter, dated 24 October 2008, addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2008/673), which were both circulated to Member States, highlighted the ramifications of Ethiopia's occupation for regional peace and security. More recently, the concern of the Government of Eritrea in this regard was raised during the 6000th meeting of the Security Council, in connection with the Djibouti/Eritrean question, under the item "Peace and security in Africa", which was held on 23 October 2008.

Ethiopia's new and provocative military occupation of Mount Musa Ali, on top of its occupation of the above-mentioned Eritrean territories, constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, I wish to seize this opportunity to remind you to give due consideration to Eritrea's appeals in the interest of regional peace and security.

I should be most grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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